

Find of No Significant Impact For the Construction Of Two Barracks Complexes on Fort Hood, Texas

1.0 Name of the Action

Proposed construction of two Barracks Complexes, company operations, a dining facility, and associated infrastructure.

Description of the Proposed Action and Alternative

Under the Proposed Action, Fort Hood plans to construct two new barracks projects and demolish existing buildings within the 21000 block, 24000 block, 34000 blocks, and 31000 blocks. These new barracks projects are part of the 16 barracks upgrade projects in the Fort Hood Master Plan. Barracks Complex (58555) will house 324 unaccompanied enlisted personnel and company operations for 10 companies stationed at Fort Hood. This building will be located at the southeast corner of 62nd Street and Old Ironsides Avenue. The company operations building will be located at the southeast corner of 58th Street and Old Ironsides Avenue. Barracks Complex (58555) is estimated to disturb 15.5 acres of land. Barracks Complex (23650) will house 480 unaccompanied enlisted personnel and will incorporate a standard-designed, new dining facility. This barracks building will be located in the 34000 block and will encompass 202,230 square feet. Barracks Complex (23650) is estimated to disturb 17.6 acres.

Under the No Action Alternative, Barracks Complex (58555) and Barracks Complex (23650) would not be built. If Barracks Complex (58555) were not constructed, the Soldiers on Fort Hood would continue to live and work in substandard and deteriorating facilities. Also, the current barracks do not meet Fort Hood's one to one standard of occupancy as mandated by the Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD). A lack of space is causing a diversion of operations and supply requirements to barracks space.

If Barracks Complex (23650) were not built, current maintenance problems would continue and Soldiers would continue to share rooms because of a lack of space. The old buildings still would have gang latrines that lack separation of the sexes. The existing dining facility, building 34008, is not designed to support modern kitchen equipment or the current demand for meal service. The building's air conditioner no longer cools the building adequately and the plumbing for the building does not meet current standards of efficiency. Workers have passed out due to heat exhaustion caused by air and ventilation deficiencies. Leaks in the ceiling have caused mold and mildew to build up on the walls and floors, which presents health issues to workers and other personnel.

Alternatives to the two barracks projects considered were renovation and usage of other government owned facilities. Because of structural damage and a backlog of maintenance, it is not possible to renovate the existing barracks nor is it possible to

comply with the one to one standard for occupancy on Fort Hood. No other government owned facilities are available or adequate enough on Fort Hood for the purpose of this barracks complex.

3.0 Summary of Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

Based on the EA prepared August 2006, which is hereby incorporated by reference, there will be insignificant adverse impacts associated with the construction of the two new barracks projects. It is estimated that 36.4 acres of area will be disturbed in these two construction projects. Long-term, insignificant adverse impacts to land use, soils, storm waters, waste water, and vegetation are anticipated. Short-term, insignificant adverse impacts to air quality, noise, and hazardous materials due to construction activities are anticipated. Long-term beneficial impacts to socioeconomics are anticipated. Therefore, no significant impact on human health or the natural environment is anticipated from the Proposed Action.

4.0 Public Comment/Review

The Draft EA and FNSI were available for public review for a period of 30 days, beginning August 22, 2006. The Notice of Availability (NOA) will be published in the Killeen Daily Herald. The purpose of this review is to ensure that significant issues are resolved. The documents can be viewed on the following website: <http://www.dpw.hood.army.mil/HTML/PPD/Pnotice.htm>. Copies have also been provided to the Killeen Public Library at 205 East Church Avenue, Killeen, Texas 76541. Comments on the EA and FNSI should be submitted no later than September 22 2006 to U.S. Army, HQ III Corps and Fort Hood, ATTN: IMSW-HOD-PWE, Building 4219, 77th Street and Warehouse Avenue, Fort Hood TX 76544-5028 (Attn: Nancy Niemann- 287-6499).

5.0 Conclusion

Based on the findings of the EA, no significant impact on human health or the natural environment is anticipated from the Proposed Action. A FNSI is warranted and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required for this action.

Roderick A. Chisholm
Director of Public Works

Date

Executive Summary

Environmental Assessment For the Construction Of Two Barracks Complexes on Fort Hood, TX

This Environmental Assessment (EA) addresses the potential for adverse or beneficial impacts of the proposed construction of Barracks Complex (58555) and Barracks Complex (23650). The EA describes the purpose and need of the Proposed Action, alternatives considered, existing conditions of the environment, and the anticipated impacts that would result from implementation of the proposed action.

Proposed Action

Fort Hood proposes to construct a new Barracks Complex (58555) that will house 324 unaccompanied enlisted personnel and provide company operations for 10 companies stationed at Fort Hood. This barracks will be a standard design complex and its primary facilities will include the barracks and company operation facilities. The barracks will be located in the 24000 block. For the purpose of this new construction, buildings 21002 and 21003 will be demolished. Company operations for this project will be constructed in the 24000 block. Under the Proposed Action, this new barracks project is part of the 16 barracks upgrade projects in the Fort Hood Master Plan. This complex is proposed to be constructed in fiscal year 2007.

Fort Hood also proposes to construct a new Barracks Complex (23650) in the 31000 block that will encompass 202,230 square feet and will house 480 unaccompanied enlisted personnel. This barracks complex will also have a standard design, full service dining facility. For the purpose of this new construction, buildings in the 34000 block will be demolished. Company operations for this project will be constructed in the 31000 block in the second phase of this project. This complex is proposed to be constructed in fiscal year 2011.

Purpose and Need

Fort Hood proposes to build two barracks complexes, Barracks Complex (58555) and Barracks Complex (23650). These projects are required to provide living and working conditions that meet current standards for Soldiers. Current barracks have both water and structural damage. The associated facilities are also deteriorated and current routine maintenance will not meet the heavy demands and the major system failures that are already occurring. Fort Hood also requires adequate barracks space for Soldiers in accordance with the Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD), which requires that each Soldier have his or her own personal room, known as the 1 to 1 standard. The current barracks space is not adequate to room the Soldiers.

There are 16 barracks upgrade projects in the Fort Hood Master Plan. With one barracks upgrade project every year, it will take nearly 20 years to complete the cycle.

Because of this, the project must begin now to ensure that these facilities do not deteriorate to the state that they become uninhabitable by Fort Hood's Soldiers.

No Action Alternative:

Under the No Action Alternative, Barracks Complex (58555) and Barracks Complex (23650) would not be built. If Barrack Complex (58555) were not constructed, the Soldiers on Fort Hood would continue to live and work in substandard and deteriorating facilities. Also, the current barracks does not meet Fort Hood's 1 to 1 standard of occupancy as stated by the Office of the Secretary of Defense OSD and has a lack space for the Soldiers. This shortfall of space is causing a diversion of operations and supply requirements to the barracks.

If Barracks Complex (23650) were not built, current maintenance problems would continue and Soldiers would also continue to share rooms because of a lack space. The old buildings would still have gang latrines that lack separation of the sexes. The existing dining facility, building 34008, is not designed to support modern kitchen equipment or the current demand for meal service. Workers are passing out due to heat exhaustion caused by air and ventilation deficiencies. Leaks in the ceiling are causing mold and mildew to build up on the walls and floors, which presents health issues to workers and other personnel.

Proposed Alternatives:

Alternatives to the two barracks projects considered were renovation and usage of other government owned facilities. Because of structural damage, a backlog of maintenance and building configuration, it is not possible to renovate the existing barracks nor is it possible to comply with the 1 to 1 standard for occupancy on Fort Hood as stated by the OSD. No other government owned facilities are available or adequate enough on Fort Hood for the purpose of these barracks projects.

Environmental Consequences:

Based on the EA prepared August 22 2006, which is hereby incorporated by reference, there will be insignificant adverse impacts associated with the construction of the two new barracks projects. It is estimated that 36.4 acres of area will be used in these two construction projects. Long-term, insignificant adverse impacts to land use, soils, storm waters, waste water, and vegetation are anticipated. Short-term, insignificant adverse impacts to air quality, noise, and hazardous materials due to construction activities are anticipated. Long-term beneficial impacts to socio economics are anticipated. Therefore, no significant impact on human health or the natural environment is anticipated from the Proposed Action.

Conclusions:

Based upon the results of the EA, it has been concluded that the proposed action would not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, a Finding of No significant Impact is warranted and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required for this action.

Environmental Assessment For the Construction Of Two Barracks Complexes on Fort Hood, TX Texas

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LIST OF ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

AQCR	Air Quality Control Region
AR	Army Regulation
BCWCID	Bell County Water Control Improvement District
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CERCLA	Comprehensive Emergency Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CU	Classification Unit
DNL	Day-Night Level
DOIM	Directorate of Information Management
EO	Executive Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPCRA	Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
NHRP	National Historic Preservation Act
NOA	Notice of Availability
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
PCPI	Per Capita Personal Income
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
ROI	Region of Influence
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TPI	Total Personal Income
TPWD	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USCB	U.S. Census Bureau
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1.0 Introduction

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) to address the potential effects, beneficial or adverse, associated with the proposed construction of two new barracks on Fort Hood, Texas. Fort Hood is a 217,300-acre U.S. Army installation located in Central Texas, approximately 58 miles due north of Austin and 39 miles southwest of Waco. Fort Hood is one of the Army's premier training installations, and a full range of mission-related training activities are conducted, including maneuver exercises for armored units up to brigade level, firing of live weapons, and aviation training. Fort Hood is the home of the U.S. Army's III Corps Headquarters (III Corps), 1st Cavalry Division, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized), 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, and numerous other military commands.

Fort Hood proposes to construct a new Barracks Complex (58555) that will house 324 unaccompanied enlisted personnel and provide company operations for 10 companies stationed at Fort Hood. This barracks will be a standard design complex and its primary facilities will include the barracks and company operation facilities. The barracks will be located in the 24000 block. For the purpose of this new construction, buildings 21002 and 21003 will be demolished. Company operations for this project will be constructed in the 24000 block. Under the Proposed Action, this new barracks project is part of the 16 barracks upgrade projects in the Fort Hood Master Plan. This complex is proposed to be constructed in fiscal year 2007.

Fort Hood also proposes to construct a new Barracks Complex (23650) in the 31000 block that will encompass 202,230 square feet and will house 480 unaccompanied enlisted personnel. This Barracks Complex will also have a standard design, full service dining facility. For the purpose of this new construction, buildings in the 34000 block will be demolished. Company operations for this project will be constructed in the 31000 block in the second phase of this project. Under the Proposed Action, this new barracks project is part of the 16 barracks upgrade projects in the Fort Hood Master Plan. This complex is proposed to be constructed in fiscal year 2011.

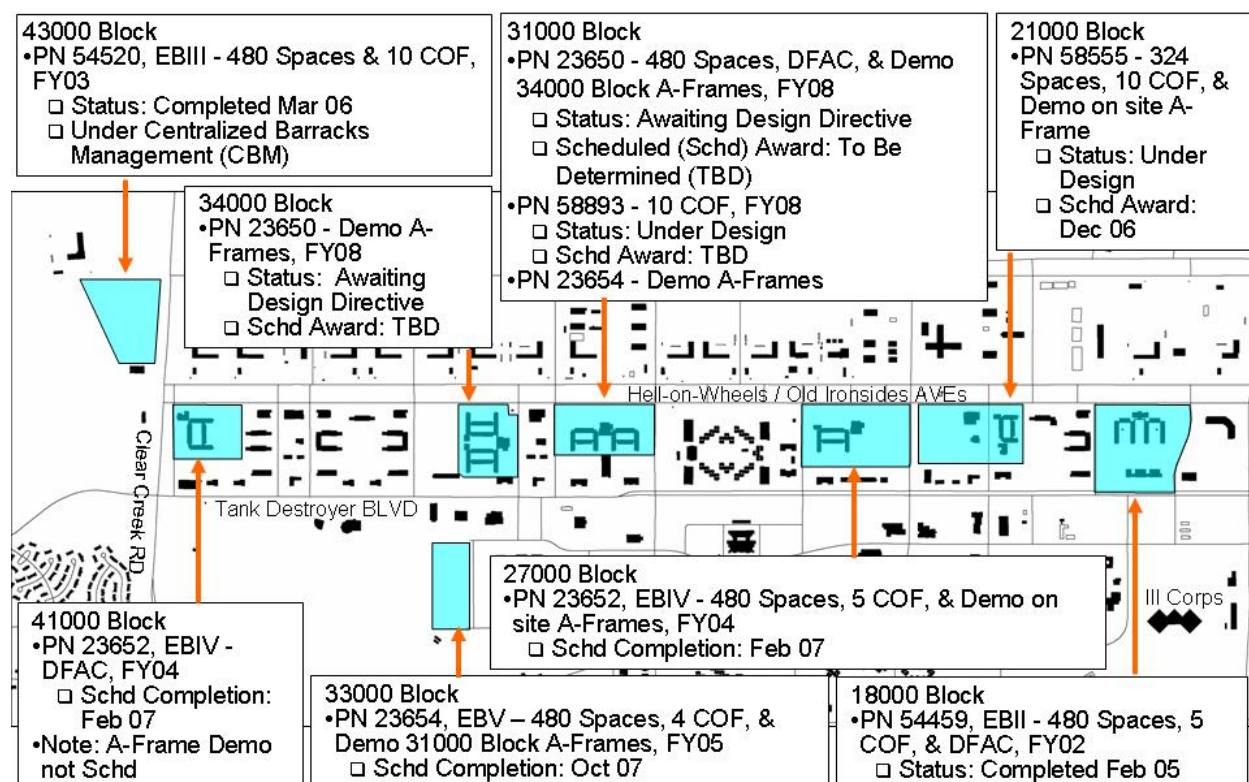
1.1 Purpose and Need

Fort Hood proposes to build two barracks complexes, Barracks Complex (58555) and Barracks Complex (23650). These projects are required to provide living and working conditions that meet current standards for Soldiers. Current barracks have both water and structural damage. The associated facilities are also deteriorated and current routine maintenance will not meet the heavy demands and the major system failures that are already occurring. Fort Hood also requires adequate barracks space for Soldiers in accordance with the Office of Secretary of Defense, which requires that each Soldier have his or her own personal room, known as the 1 to 1 standard. The current barracks space is not adequate to room the Soldiers.

There are 16 barracks upgrade projects in the Fort Hood Master Plan. With one barracks upgrade project every year, it will take nearly 20 years to complete the cycle. Because of this, the project must begin now to ensure that these facilities do not deteriorate to the state that they become uninhabitable by Fort Hood's Soldiers. Barracks projects that are part of the future upgrades in the Fort Hood Master Plan will be addressed in later documentation in the form of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), an Environmental Assessment (EA), or a Record of Environmental Consideration (REC).

Figure 1.1.1 Fort Hood's MCA Barracks Program

Fort Hood's MCA Barracks Program



1.2 Scope of the document

This EA has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of NEPA (Public Law [PL] 91-190, 1969). NEPA requires all Federal agencies to consider the environmental consequences and impacts of all Proposed Actions in their decision making process. The intent of NEPA is to protect, restore, or enhance the environment through a well-informed decision-making process. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) was established under NEPA to implement and oversee Federal policy in this process. U.S.

Army regulation (AR) 200-2, *Environmental Affects of Army Actions*, implements the CEQ regulations within the Army. This EA is designed to provide sufficient evidence and analysis to inform decision- makers and the public of the likely environmental consequences of the alternatives.

This EA identifies, documents, and evaluates the potential environmental effects of the proposed construction of the two new barracks projects. Section 2.0 describes the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. Section 3.0 describes existing environmental conditions, and specifically the sites that could be affected by the alternatives. Section 4.0 identifies potential environmental effects that could occur upon implementation of the Proposed Action and the subsequent cumulative impacts.

2.0 Proposed Action and Alternatives Considered

Under the Proposed Action, Fort Hood plans to construct two new barracks complexes and demolish existing buildings within the 21000 block, 24000 block, 34000 block, and 31000 block. These new barracks projects are part of the 16 barracks upgrade projects in the Fort Hood Master Plan. Barracks Complex (58555) will billet 324 unaccompanied enlisted personnel and company operations for 10 companies stationed at Fort Hood. This building will be located at the southeast corner of 62nd Street and Old Ironsides Avenue. The company operations building will be located at the southeast corner of 58th Street and Old Ironsides Avenue. This Barracks Complex (58555) is estimated to disturb 15.5 acres of land.

Barracks Complex (23650) will house 480 unaccompanied enlisted personnel and will have a standard design for a dining facility. This building will be located in the 34000 block and will encompass 202,230 square feet. This Barracks Complex is estimated to disturb 17.6 acres.

Figure 2.0.1- 21000 block



Figure 2.0.2- 21000 block



Figure 2.0.3 - 31000 block



Figure 2.0.4 – 31000 block



Alternatives to the two barracks projects considered were renovation and usage of other government owned facilities. Because of structural damage, a backlog of maintenance and building configuration it is not possible to renovate the existing barracks nor is it possible to comply with the one to one standard for occupancy on Fort Hood as stated by the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD). No other government owned facilities are available or adequate on Fort Hood for the purpose of these barracks projects.

2.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, Barracks Complex (58555) and Barracks Complex (23650) would not be built. If Barrack Complex (58555) were not constructed, the Soldiers on Fort Hood would continue to live and work in substandard and deteriorating facilities. In addition, the current barracks does not meet Fort Hood's one to one standard of occupancy as stated by the OSD and has a lack space for the Soldiers. This shortfall of space is causing a diversion of operations and supply requirements to the barracks.

If Barracks Complex (23650) were not built, current maintenance problems would continue and Soldiers would also continue to share rooms because of a lack space.

The old buildings would still have gang latrines that lack separation of the sexes. The existing dining facility, building 34008, is not designed to support modern kitchen equipment or meet the current demand for meal service. Workers are passing out due to heat exhaustion caused by air and ventilation deficiencies. Leaks in the ceiling are causing mold and mildew to build up on the walls and floors, which presents health issues to workers and other personnel.

3.0 Affected Environment

The affected environment is the baseline against which potential impacts caused by the Proposed Action are assessed. This section focuses on those resources and conditions that may be affected by activities resulting from the construction of the proposed barrack projects. The resources present within the footprint of, and immediate area surrounding, the Proposed Action are included in this analysis. Those resources that are either not present within the area, or would not be affected by the alternatives are not analyzed here.

Resources eliminated from further study include ground water, floodplains, fish and wildlife, threatened or endangered species, and cultural resources.

Ground water and the quality of nearby water bodies will not be affected due to adequate management practices and construction management practices outlined in a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that is required for the construction sites.

Fish and wildlife were eliminated from further study due to their infrequency on the subject property. Because the properties lie within the Main Cantonment area of the installation, few animals are found on the properties, and they would not be affected by the new construction. There are no occurrences of threatened or endangered species on the subject property.

Cultural resources were eliminated from further study because no known cultural or historic sites are present on the subject sites.

3.1 Land Use

Barracks Complex (58555) will be located in the 24000 and 21000 block, which are bordered by 62nd Street and Old Ironsides Avenue. The current land use is administrative, which includes a gym, company operations, and a classroom.

Barracks Complex (23650) will be located in the 31000 block and 34000 block, which are bordered by 72nd Street and Old Ironsides Avenue. The current land use is administrative, which includes a gym, classroom, company operations, and a dining facility.

3.2 Aesthetics and Visual Resources

On the subject properties of both barracks, the terrain is generally flat with grasses. The surrounding landscape includes other administrative buildings, such as a chapel and a gym. Because the properties lie within the Main Cantonment area of the installation, very few visually appealing sites surround the properties. There are several

native trees in the surrounding areas and near the areas of construction for these two barracks projects.

3.3 Geology and Soils

Soils observed in the 24000 and 21000 block are composed of Bracket- Topsey Association and Slidell Silty Clay. See figure for locations of soil types.

Figure 3.3.1- Soils in 24000 and 21000 block



Soils observed in the 34000 block and 31000 block are composed of Bracket-Topsey Association. See figure below.

Figure 3.3.2 - 34000 block and 31000 block



3.4 Water

Water Quality

Although no water bodies exist on the subject properties, rain events may cause runoff from the site to end up in nearby waters. The presence of grasses and the lack of nearby water bodies substantially minimize any impacts to water quality from the current sites. Use of the Integrated Pest Management Plan minimizes any impacts to water quality due to use, and runoff, of pesticides when they are applied near the proposed barrack project sites.

Waters of the U.S.

There are drainage features in the project areas that are likely jurisdictional waters of the U.S. under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. However, no delineation has been completed for this area. Based on preliminary assessments of the potential impacts to waters of the U.S., it is anticipated that the projects will meet the conditions of a Nationwide Permit 39. The impacts to waters of the U.S. for each specific project area will be further evaluated during the design process to ensure impacts are avoided or minimized and fall under the Nationwide Permit if possible.

3.5 Biological Resources

3.5.1 Vegetation

The vegetation located on these properties is a mix of grasses. The dominant grass at these two locations is Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*). Several other grasses are located at these two sites, such as King Ranch bluestem (*Bothriochloa ischaemum*), Dallis grass (*Paspalum dilatatum*), Klein grass (*Panicum coloratum*), St. Augustine carpet grass (*Stenotaphrum secundatum*), silver bluestem (*Bothriochloa laguroides*), buffalo grass (*Buchloe dactyloides*) and southern crab grass (*Digitaria ciliaris*). Native grasses are silver bluestem and buffalo grass. Native trees are spread throughout these properties and may be disturbed throughout this construction process.

All native trees are protected native species on Fort Hood and are subject to the ten to one replacement rule, as written in Fort Hood's Installation Design Guide (IDG). The IDG states that for every one native tree that is removed from the Cantonment Area of Fort Hood, ten native trees must be planted to replace the tree that was removed. The replacement trees must be chosen from Fort Hood's Landscaping Memorandum of Instruction (MOI). Preservation of native trees is preferred over replacement. Juniper (cedar) trees are not a protected species on Fort Hood.

3.6 Air Quality

Fort Hood is located in Bell and Coryell Counties, which are within the Austin-Waco Intrastate Air Quality Control Region (AQCR). Ambient air quality for this area is labeled as an unclassifiable attainment for all critical pollutants. Unclassifiable areas are those areas that have not had ambient air monitoring and are assumed to be in attainment with National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

Fort Hood is considered a major source for all criteria pollutants because of its calculated potential to emit certain criteria pollutants including CO, NO_x, SO₂, VOC, and PM₁₀. This is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region. Existing air emission sources are subject to Maximum Achievable Control Technology standard. The TCEQ approved Fort Hood's Title V Federal Operating Permit on October 29, 2001, and currently conducts annual compliance inspections at Fort Hood. The Title V Operating Permit must be renewed every 5 years, and the current new permit is in the process of being renewed.

3.7 Noise

Noise levels are computed over a 24-hour period and adjusted for nighttime annoyances to produce the day-night average sound level (DNL). DNL is the community noise metric recommended by the USEPA and has been adopted by most Federal agencies (USEPA 1972; Federal Interagency Committee on Noise 1992). A

DNL of 65 dB is the level most commonly used for noise planning purposes and represents a compromise between community impact and the need for activities that do cause noise. Areas exposed to DNL above 65 dB are generally not considered suitable. A DNL of 55 dB was identified by USEPA as a suitable level below which there is no adverse impact (USEPA 1973).

The primary noise sensitive areas near the Barracks Complex (58555) are the surrounding buildings: company operations, a gym, and classrooms. These areas are noise sensitive because of the large traffic of people that use the facilities daily. The primary noise sensitive areas near the Barracks Complex (23650) are surrounding buildings: a chapel, a dining facility, a gym, company operations, and a classroom. Aircraft and range activities cause the most common public noise complaints throughout Fort Hood. The complaints are not usually due to the effect of the noise on humans, but instead the effect on livestock startled by sudden noise who damage facilities or structures (USACE 19999). There are no livestock or free-range domestic animals living near the construction area.

3.8 Socioeconomics

The socioeconomic Region of Influence (ROI) of the subject property encompasses a portion of Fort Hood in Bell County, Texas. Bell County is part of the Killeen-Temple Fort Hood Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) with a 2005 population of 351,528 (Real Estate Center 2005¹). The total population of Bell County was estimated to be 256,057 in 2005. This is a slight increase over the 2004 population of 250,466². The racial mix is provided below:

3.8.1 Figure Population Statistics for Bell County³ (U.S. Census Bureau, 2005).

Total population	237,974		
Male	119,467	50.2	49.1%
Female	118,507	49.8	50.9%
<u>Median age</u> (years)	29.2	(X)	35.3
Under 5 years	21,100	8.9	6.8%
18 years and over	169,236	71.1	74.3%
65 years and over	20,865	8.8	12.4%
<u>One race</u>	228,805	96.1	97.6%
White	150,900	63.4	75.1%
Black or African American	48,624	20.4	12.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1,719	0.7	0.9%
Asian	6,097	2.6	3.6%

¹ <http://recenter.tamu.edu/data/popm00/pcbsa28660.html>

² Ibid.

³ U.S. Census Bureau (hyperlink below)

http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/SAFFacts?_event=Search&geo_id=&geoContext=&street=&county=Bell+County&cityTown=Bell+County&state=04000US48&zip=&lang=en&sse=on&pctxt=fph&pgsl=010

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	1,141	0.5	0.1%
Some other race	20,324	8.5	5.5%
Two or more races	9,169	3.9	2.4%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	39,701	16.7	12.5%

The total number of jobs in Bell County in 2004 was 114,581, a decrease from the 2000 figure of 121,181. (USCB 2004a, USCB 200.) The 2002 unemployment rate was 3.7 percent, which is slightly lower than the state unemployment rate of 3.8 percents. Approximately 12.1 percent of the total population lives in poverty. This is slightly less than the estimated 15.4 percent of the state population that lives in poverty (USCB 200a, USCB 200b).

The 2002 annual Total Personal Income (TPI) for Bell County was \$6,274.479. Bell County's TPI ranked 17th in the state and accounted for one percent of the state total. The Per Capita Personal Income (PCPI) for Bell County was 25,581 in 2002. Bell County's PCPI ranked 60th in the state and was 88 percent of the state average (\$29,039) and 83 percent of the national average (\$30,906) (U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis 2005).

In 2000, there were 92,782 housing units in Bell County with 85,507 of these houses currently occupied. Approximately 56,282 of the housing units are one-unit, detached structures with the rest existing as multi-unit housing, mobile homes, or boat, recreational vehicles, or vans (USCB 2000c).

3.9 Environmental Justice/Protection of Children from Health and Safety Risks

Executive Order (E.O.) 12898 "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations," dated February 11, 1994, requires all Federal agencies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse effects of its programs, policies and activities on minority and low-income populations. Since the project area has a large population of minorities, particularly groups claiming African American and Hispanic or Latino origin and low-income populations, E.O. 12898 will be addressed in this EA.

E.O. 13045 "Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks" dated April 21 1997 requires Federal agencies to identify and address the potential to generate disproportionately high environmental health and safety risks to children. This E.O. was prompted by the recognition that children, still undergoing physiological growth and development are more sensitive to adverse environmental health and safety risks than adults are.

3.10 HAZARDOUS AND TOXIC MATERIALS

Hazardous waste, hazardous materials, and toxic substances include those substances defined as hazardous by the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act

(EPCRA), Comprehensive Emergency Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), or the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). In general, they include substances that, because of their quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or toxic characteristics, may present substantial danger to public health or welfare or to the environment when inappropriately released.

Unserviceable materials and used products are managed at the Fort Hood Classification Unit (CU) for in-house users. Contractors are required to provide material safety data sheets (MSDSs) and product labels for all hazardous and toxic materials used during construction on the installation. Further, the contractor should store and dispose of these products in coordination with the Classification Unit on Fort Hood.

3.11 UTILITIES

Water Supply

Potable water on Fort Hood is obtained from the Bell County Water Control Improvement District (BCWCID) #1, which guarantees a delivery of 16.0 million gallons/day (mgd) (USACE 2003). BCWCID #1 obtains its water from Belton Lake. It is anticipated that the new barrack projects will continue to use this service for any new facilities.

Sanitary Sewer

Fort Hood and the City of Killeen are served by Treatment Plants #1 and #2 of the BCWCID #1. Half of Treatment Plant #1's capacity of 15.0 mgd is reserved for Fort Hood. Treatment plant #2 has an additional reserve capacity of 3.0 mgd and adjacent land is available to construct another treatment plant with a capacity of 6.0 mgd (USACE 2003). It is anticipated that the new barracks projects will continue to use this service for any new facilities.

Electric Power

Texas Utilities Electric Company provides electricity to the Fort Hood area through two 138,000-volt transmission lines (USACE 1999). It is anticipated that the new barracks projects will continue to use this service for any new facilities.

Natural Gas

The Lone Star Gas Company provides a guaranteed annual delivery of 1,300,000 thousand cubic feet (MCF). It is anticipated that the new barracks projects will continue to use this service for any new facilities.

4.0 Environmental Consequences

The environmental consequences section addresses the direct and indirect impacts of the construction of the new barracks projects. Direct impacts are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place. For the purposes of this EA, direct impacts are those caused by the demolition of current buildings and construction of the new barracks projects. Indirect impacts are caused by the action are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect impacts are those subsequent impacts associated with use or development of the subject properties. Impacts are defined as “short-term” (those impacts which would occur prior to or during construction), or “long-term” (those impacts expected to last beyond the duration of construction).

As outlined in the beginning of section 3.0, only those resources that could potentially be impacted as a result of direct or indirect impacts are addressed in the following section.

4.1 Land Use

4.1.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, the land use will be very similar to the current land use. Barracks Complex (23650) will be built in the 31000 block that currently has administrative buildings and a barracks situated on that location. Because this project is at a preliminary stage, the entire block will be evaluated. Barracks Complex (58555) will be built in the 24000 block that currently has administrative buildings and a gym on this location. Because this project is at a preliminary stage, the entire block will be evaluated. The total acreage of block 31000 and block 34000 is estimated to be 36.4 acres.

Insignificant, long-term impacts to land use would be anticipated as a result of the two barrack projects construction activities because a large portion of the building would be positioned on a green grass site; however, the development of these sites are consistent with land uses of the surrounding areas.

4.1.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the two new barracks projects would not be constructed. There would be no new land disturbance and Fort Hood would continue to operate from the current barracks rather than constructing new facilities. There would be no impacts to land use as a result of the No Action Alternative.

4.2 Aesthetics and Visual Resources

4.2.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, the development of the two barracks projects would not change the area visually because the development is consistent with existing development in the occurring area. As a result, no impacts to aesthetics and visual resources would occur.

4.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the two barracks projects would not be constructed. There would be no new land disturbance and Fort Hood would continue to operate in the current barracks complex and company operations facilities. There would be no impact, either beneficial or adverse, under the No Action Alternative.

4.3 Geology and Soils

4.3.1 Proposed Action

Construction of the two barracks projects, Barracks Complex (23650) and Barracks Complex (58555) would involve standard construction activities, including clearing, grading, and paving. Construction activities would be evaluated to determine the erosion potential of the soils, and erosion control designs would be incorporated into construction plans. Increased runoff and erosion would occur during construction of the sites due to removal of vegetation, exposure of soil, and increased susceptibility to wind and water erosion. However, these effects would be minimized by the use of appropriate best management practices for controlling runoff, erosion, and sedimentation. These practices include, but are not limited to, silt fences, straw bale (containing native grass species) dikes, diversion, ditches, rip-rap channels, water bars, and water spreaders. With the implementation of best management practices, impacts to soils are expected to be insignificant. In 2004, an investigation was performed to locate a possible landfill near building 34006. The investigation drilled 51 borings into the ground and studies concluded that the area did not contain an existing landfill.

4.3.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the two barracks projects would not be constructed. There would be no new land disturbance, and Fort Hood would continue to operate in the current configuration. There would be no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, to geology, topography, or soils as a result of the No Action Alternative.

4.4 Water

4.4.1 Proposed Action

Water Quality

Storm Water

Construction of the Proposed Action would have long-term, insignificant effects from increased impervious surface area and a subsequent increase in storm water runoff. Adherence to proper storm water management engineering practices, applicable regulations, codes, and permit requirements, and low-impact development techniques would reduce storm water runoff-related impacts to a level of insignificance. Further, a SWPPP would be required to be submitted to TCEQ before the construction of the two new barracks projects.

Wastewater

There would be a long-term, insignificant impact to wastewater from the construction of the two new barracks projects. The BCWCID is capable of treating 21 million gallons per day (mgd) of wastewater. In an average year, the BCWCID treats 4.4 billion gallons of wastewater. The BCWCID should have adequate capacity to meet future development needs and there should be no significant impacts as a result of implementing the Proposed Action. However, prior to any construction activities, Fort Hood will coordinate with the BCWCID to ensure they have adequate capacity to meet the facilities' needs.

Waters of the U.S.

There are drainage features in the project area that are likely jurisdictional waters of the U.S. under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. However, a delineation of the area has not yet been completed. Based on preliminary assessments of the potential impacts to waters of the U.S., it is anticipated that the projects will meet the conditions of Nationwide Permit 39. The impacts to waters of the U.S. for each specific project area will be further evaluated during the design process to ensure impacts are avoided or minimized and fall under the Nationwide Permit.

4.4.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the two new barracks projects would not be constructed. There would be no new land disturbance and Fort Hood would continue to operate in their current configurations. There would be no impacts, beneficial or adverse, to water quality or waters of the U.S.

4.5 Biological Resources

4.5.1 Vegetation

4.5.1.1 Proposed Action

Insignificant, direct impacts would result from construction activities and would include a direct loss of a several acres of vegetation. This loss of vegetation would be comprised of native grasses and possible native trees. Modification of the landscape during construction phases is not anticipated to result in any significant impacts on species

diversity or significant impacts to the quality of the vegetative community within the project area

4.5.1.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the two new barracks projects would not be constructed. There would be no new land disturbance and Fort Hood would continue to operate in their current configuration. There would be no impacts, beneficial or adverse, to vegetation in the two project areas.

4.6 Air Quality

4.6.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, direct, intermittent, insignificant effects would be expected within the AQCR as a result of construction of the two new barracks projects. Heavy construction equipment and trucks would emit minor amounts of NO_x, PM₁₀, CO, SO_x, and VOCs. Although these construction activities would produce dust and particulate matter, these actions pose no significant impact on air quality. Fugitive dust emissions can easily be controlled and minimized by using standard construction practices such as periodically wetting the construction area, covering open equipment used to convey materials, and promptly removing spilled or tracked dirt from streets. Since the proposed construction sites are located within an unclassifiable/attainment area for all criteria pollutants, General Conformity Rule requirements are not applicable.

4.6.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the two new barracks projects would not be constructed. There would be no new land disturbance and Fort Hood would continue to operate in their current configuration. There would be no impacts, beneficial or adverse, to air quality in the two project areas.

4.7 Noise

4.7.1 Proposed Action

Construction activities will directly increase noise levels at locations immediately adjacent to the barracks projects construction sites, temporarily. Noise levels created by construction equipment would vary greatly depending on factors such as the type of equipment, the specific model, the operation being performed, and the condition of the equipment. The equivalent sound level of the construction activity also depends on the fraction of time that the equipment is operated over the time period of construction. Heavy equipment such as backhoes and dump trucks would cause short-term, localized, insignificant increases in noise levels during construction of the sites.

Most construction activities would produce only short-term noise level increases. Construction would occur only during daylight hours, thus reducing the DNLs and the chances of causing annoyances. Since construction would only occur during daylight hours, these short-term increases are not expected to substantially affect adjacent noise sensitive receptors or wildlife areas. If the use of dynamite, pile drivers, or any extreme noise-making device associated with construction were to become prevalent, a noise study and mitigation measures should be considered.

Traffic noise will not increase because there will be no new influx of people or traffic.

4.7.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the two new barracks projects would not be constructed. There would be no new land disturbance and Fort Hood would continue to operate in the current configuration. There would be no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, to noise or traffic as a result of the No Action Alternative.

4.8 Socioeconomics

4.8.1 Proposed Action

The labor for the construction of the two new barracks projects would be provided by local or regional contractors, resulting in direct, insignificant increases in the population of the project area. Materials and other project expenditures would predominantly be contained through merchants in the local community resulting in direct economic benefits. The proposed construction of the two barracks projects would not be expected to increase burdens on local social resources. Safety buffer zones would be designated around all construction sites to ensure public health and safety to keep persons and children away from the construction area. No displacement would result from this action and therefore there would be no impacts to housing in this area. Consequently, no long-term adverse impacts to socioeconomics are expected.

4.8.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the two new barracks projects would not be constructed. There would be no new land disturbance and Fort Hood would continue to operate in the current configuration. There would be no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, to socioeconomics as a result of the No Action Alternative.

4.9 Environmental Justice/Protection of the Children from Health and Safety Risks

4.9.1 Proposed Action

Environmental Justice

Minorities account for a large portion of the local population, particularly groups claiming African American, Hispanic or Latino origin, and low-income populations. Construction of the two barracks projects is expected to have a beneficial effect on all populations regardless of race, origin, or income level. The existing barracks are in a state of disrepair and the new barracks will provide the Soldiers adequate housing that would be both safe and comfortable. The new barracks will also be built with added force protection for safety and terrorism issues. The construction of the two barracks projects would be in compliance with E.O. 12898 and will have no impacts on environmental justice.

Protection of Children from Health and Safety Risks

Numerous types of construction equipment such as backhoes, bulldozers, graders, dump trucks, and other large construction equipment would be used throughout the duration of construction activities on the two new barrack sites. During construction, safety measures would be followed to protect the health and safety of residents and children. Barriers and “No Trespassing” signs would be placed around construction sites to deter children from playing in these areas, and construction vehicles and equipment would be secured when not in use. Since the construction area would be flagged or otherwise fenced, issues regarding Protection of Children are not anticipated.

4.9.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the two new barracks projects would not be constructed. There would be no new land disturbance and Fort Hood would continue to operate in the existing configuration. There would be no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, to environmental justice or protection of children as result of the No Action Alternative.

4.10 Hazardous and Toxic Materials

4.10.1 Proposed Action

Direct, insignificant impacts to hazardous and toxic materials would be expected as a result of construction activities on the two new barrack sites. Potentially hazardous materials would likely be on-site during construction such as paints, asphalt, fuels, and motor oils for construction vehicles.

Persons working with or near fresh paint and asphalt should protect themselves by wearing appropriate clothing, washing their hands before eating or smoking, and bathing at the end of each workday. Construction equipment that could be used contains fuel, lubricating oils, hydraulic fluid, and coolants that could be regulated hazardous substances if they spilled or leaked on the construction site. The construction contractors would be responsible for the prevention of spills of paint and fuels. Spills should be prevented by proper storage and handling of these materials, attention to the task at hand, and safe driving.

During construction activities, vehicles and equipment would be inspected to ensure correct and leak-free operation, and maintenance activities would not be conducted on the site. Appropriate spill containment materials would be kept on site. All fuels and other materials that would be used should be contained in the equipment or stored in appropriate containers. All materials would be removed from the site upon completion of construction activities.

Some materials, while essentially inert under normal conditions, can be potentially hazardous in specific circumstances. Wood and dry concrete can generate airborne particulate as they are cut or sanded. To protect against the impacts of such particulates, workers should wear facemasks and safety glasses when performing these tasks. Wood and other construction materials are also flammable. Establishing dedicated smoking areas and prohibiting open flames near flammable materials greatly reduces the risk of fire.

4.10.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the two new barracks projects would not be constructed. There would be no new land disturbance and Fort Hood would continue to operate in the existing barracks and company operations. There would be no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, to hazardous or toxic waste as a result of the No Action Alternative.

4.11 Utilities

4.11.1 Proposed Action

Water, sewer, electrical, and gas lines would have to be installed in the project area. These additional disturbances will be addressed in later supplemental environmental documentation. These utilities will be a direct, insignificant impact to the soils and vegetation. Prior to any construction activities, Fort Hood should coordinate with the appropriate utility suppliers and transportation officials to ensure they have capacity to incorporate the new barracks projects into the required systems.

4.11.2 No Action Alternative

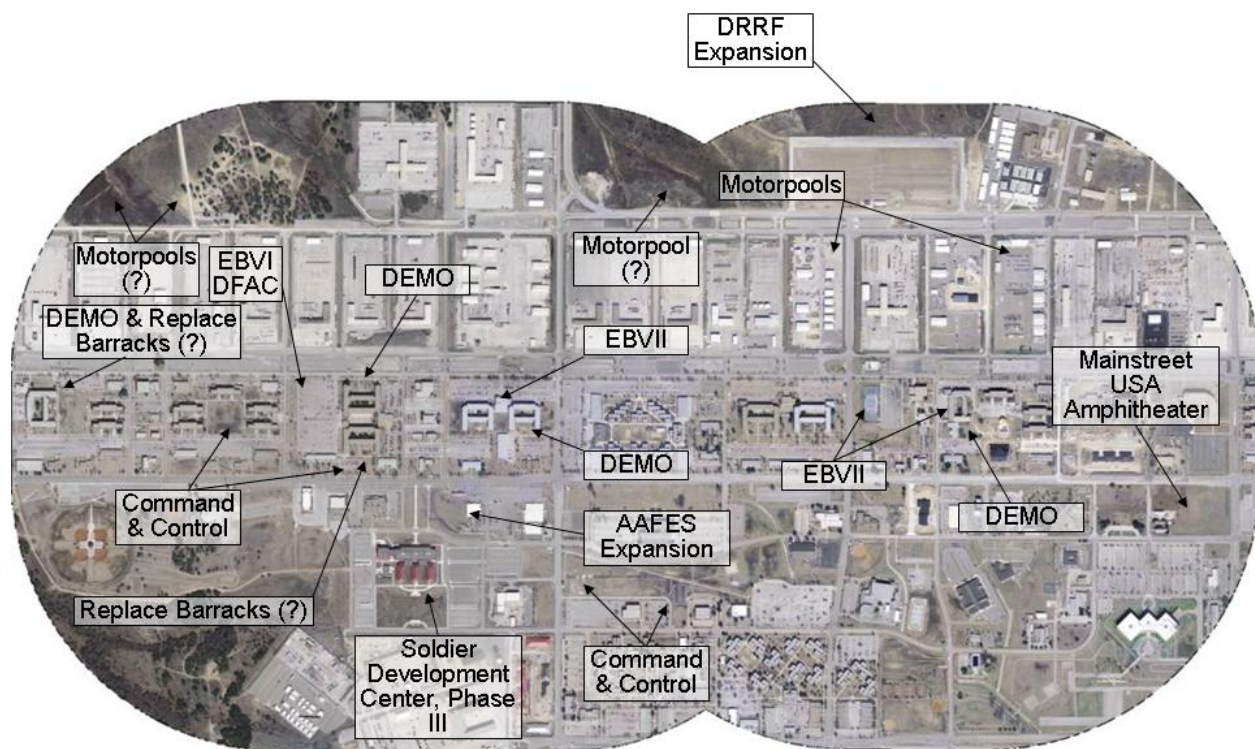
Under the No Action Alternative, the two new barracks projects would not be constructed. There would be no new land disturbance and Fort Hood would continue to operate in the current configuration. There would be no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, to utilities as a result of the No Action Alternative.

4.12 Cumulative Impacts

CEQ regulations implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA require Federal agencies to consider the cumulative impacts of a proposal (40 CFR 1508.25 (c)). A cumulative impact on the environment is the impact that results from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (Federal or non Federal) or person undertakes such other actions (40 CFR 1507.7). This type of an assessment is important because significant cumulative impacts can result from several smaller actions that by themselves do not have significant impacts.

Currently there are 11 projects in the surrounding areas of these two barracks project.

Figure 4.12.1



Motor Pool Projects on North and Clear Creek Road

Two motor pool projects are proposed on the corner of North Avenue and Clear Creek Road. The proposed west motor pool is in the vicinity of FH-007 (Abandoned Sanitary Landfill). FH-007 is approximately 38 acres in size and was a trench type of landfill that was used primarily for municipal solid waste. The landfill operated in 1972 and the depths of the trenches have been estimated to be 15 to 20 feet deep (US Army Corps of Engineers [USACE] 1995). Based upon investigation results, the FH -007 landfill is determined to have typical sanitary landfill materials. The potential for migration of

constituents detected above background and/or screening criteria is soil and groundwater samples collected within the FH-007 landfill can be considered low because these constituents were detected infrequently at relatively low concentrations in soil and groundwater at FH-007. The unit is managed as intended, under SMWU and the Installation Action Plan (IAP) and no further action is necessary. Fort Hood is to continue to ensure that FH-007 is maintained and managed in a manner that does not compromise the integrity of the landfill and does not have adverse impact on the surrounding area.

The eastern motor pool construction is proposed on an archaeological site. This site is not eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and is not managed. It will not affect the construction of this project.

There have been no delineations of waters of the U.S. or wetlands. This will have to be addressed in the future of this construction. All environmental impacts will be addressed in later documentation in as the form of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), an Environmental Assessment (EA), or a Record of Environmental Consideration (REC).

AAFES Expansion

An Addition to the original AAFES building is a part of Fort Hood Master Plan for the future. This expansion is proposed on the west side of the existing building. All environmental impacts will be addressed in later documentation in as the form of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), an Environmental Assessment (EA), or a Record of Environmental Consideration (REC).

Motor Pool Project off North Ave and West Range Road

A Motor Pool Project is proposed for construction off North Ave and West Range Road. There have been no delineations of waters of the U.S. or wetlands on this site. All environmental impacts will be addressed in later documentation in the form of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), an Environmental Assessment (EA), or a Record of Environmental Consideration (REC).

Deployment Readiness Reaction Field (DRRF) Expansion

Expansion of the DRRF Area is proposed. Delineations have been completed for waters of the U.S. in this area. See Appendix A.

There are also native and non-native trees on the property that will have to be addressed according to Fort Hood's ten to one tree policy. All environmental impacts will be addressed in later documentation in the form of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), an Environmental Assessment (EA), or a Record of Environmental Consideration (REC).

Main Street USA Amphitheater

An amphitheater is proposed to be construction off Hood Road and 761st Tank Battalion Avenue. All environmental impacts will be addressed in later documentation in the form of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), an Environmental Assessment (EA), or a Record of Environmental Consideration (REC).

Command and Control

Two command and control projects are proposed to be constructed off 72nd Street and Training Road and Support Avenue. This land use would be similar to the current land use. All environmental impacts will be later addressed in documentation in the form of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), an Environmental Assessment (EA), or a Record of Environmental Consideration (REC).

Although plans for this area show an increase in facilities, there would be no significant environmental impacts. Delineations will need to be completed for waters of the U.S. and wetlands in these areas. These issues will need to be addressed in the future construction of these areas. Impacts to waters due to disturbance of soil will be greatly minimized due to best management of construction sites and adherence to the requirements set forth in a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). No long-term impacts to air quality are anticipated only short-term, insignificant impacts due to machinery and dust during construction phases. Noise is also common for this segment of the cantonment area, and will only be increased slightly during construction phases. Vegetation and animal life are anticipated to be impacted in the short-term, but not significantly, since this area is already in the cantonment area and has an industrial use. Any native trees that are removed for any project would be replaced at a 10:1 ratio, as discussed previously.

Cumulatively, water quality may be temporarily affected by the proposed construction of the two barracks projects, in conjunction with the above-mentioned projects. The Proposed Action and the 11 projects in the surround areas will drain into Cowhouse Creek and South Nolan Creek. These impacts are anticipated to be temporary, adverse impacts, and are not anticipated to be significant. Best management practices and appropriate storm water controls, including the implementation of a SWPPP on each of the construction sites exceeding one acre in size, will minimize any impacts that could occur.

5.0 Conclusion

Based on the EA prepared August 22 2006, which is hereby incorporated by reference, there will be insignificant adverse impacts associated with the construction of the two new barracks projects. It is estimated that 36.4 acres of land will be disturbed in these two construction projects. Long-term, insignificant adverse impacts to land use, soils, storm waters, waste water, and vegetation are anticipated. Short-term, insignificant adverse impacts to air quality, noise, and hazardous materials due to construction activities are anticipated. Long-term beneficial impacts to socioeconomics are anticipated. Therefore, no significant impact on human health or the natural environment is anticipated from the Proposed Action. A FNSI is warranted and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required for this action.

6.0 Public Involvement

This section discusses consultation and coordination that have and will occur during preparation of this document. This would include contacts that are made during the development of alternatives and writing of the EA. Formal and informal coordination will be conducted during the draft phase with the following agencies:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Texas State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

7.0 Public Review

The Draft EA and FNSI will be available for public review for a period of 30 days, beginning August 22 2006. The Notice of Availability (NOA) will be published in the Killeen Daily Herald. The purpose of this review is to ensure that significant issues are resolved. The document can be viewed on the following website:

<http://www.dpw.hood.army.mil/HTML/PPD/Pnotice.htm> . Copies have also been provided to the Killeen Public Library at 205 East Church Avenue, Killeen Texas 76541. Comments on the EA and FNSI should be submitted no later than September 22 2006 to: U.S. Army HQ III Corps and Fort Hood, ATTN: IMSW-HOD-PWE, Building 4612 A, Engineer Drive, Fort Hood, TX 76544-5028, Attn: Nancy Niemen (phone 254-287-6499).

8.0 References

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9.0 List of Preparers

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